

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 7, 2017

Agenda Item: 2017 Mountain Lion Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Min

Background

Hunting districts listed in the table below have proposed changes in Regions 3 and 4 from the 2016 mountain lion quotas. All other quotas/subquotas not listed are proposed to be unchanged from 2016 levels. Note that Region 3 uses total quotas with a female subquota while Region 4 has separate quotas for males and females. The cover sheet for the April meeting contained a misprint that listed HD 471 along with HDs 410, 417 and 419. In the table below it is correctly shown as HD 426.

In their respective areas, the proposals address issues and concerns such as harvest opportunity, lion populations, predation, primarily on mule deer and bighorn sheep, livestock depredations, and human-lion encounters in subdivisions and campgrounds. More detailed information is found in the justification for each proposal in the Commission packet.

Proposed Adjustments – Montana 2017 Mountain Lion Quotas		
Hunting District(s)	Current Quota	Proposed Quota
312, 393	7 total with 2 female subquota	9 total with 4 female subquota
320, 333	6 total with 2 female subquota	4 total with 1 female subquota
331	7 total with 3 female subquota	5 total with 2 female subquota
410, 417, 419, 426	3 males & 8 females	5 males & 8 females
405, 447, 471	3 males & 2 females	4 males & 3 females
422, 423, 424, 425, 442	11 males & 4 females	8 males & 5 females

Public Involvement Process & Results

Area landowners, sportsmen and FWP wardens are generally supportive of these proposals and have specifically called for a lion quota increase in the Missouri Breaks. All proposals have been vetted with some publics in each area. Public comment was taken through May 31. There were 5 comments summarized as of May 17: 1 opposed hunting, 1 wanting low quotas in general, 1 opposed to reducing quotas in HDs 320 and 333, 1 wanting all quotas raised, and 1 wanting more male lions in NW Montana and the winter season to end earlier. These comments are included in the Commission packet. Comments received after May 17 will be summarized at the June meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, or no change from 2016 as per staff justifications, public comment and Commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends approval of proposed quota adjustments with no changes in other hunting districts. Rationale includes mountain lion population management accommodating human tolerance, safety, prey populations and hunter opportunity.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish & Wildlife approve the proposed 2017 lion quotas/subquotas as presented by FWP.